THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Software exports during the current financial year (April—September, 2001) is Rs. 16500 crores.

(b) to (d) An export target of Rs. 36500 crores has been set for the year 2001-02, out of which about 45% has been met during the period April-September, 2001. There has been no significant slackness in IT sector in India specifically because of the September 11 terrorist attack in America.

(e) Does not arise.

Computer Information Centres in N.E.

1297. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of implementation of the programme to establish Computer Information Centres in all the blocks of NER announced by the Prime Minister on 21-22 January, 2000;

(b) the strategy and action plan finalised to provide computer facilities in each block of the NER indicating programme for its sustenance through adequate skilled manpower and its effective utility; and

(c) the details of other IT programmes being implemented in the NER indicating achievement of each programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) In implementation of the Prime Minister's announcement on 21-22nd January, 2000 a pilot project for setting up 30 Community Information Centres (CICs) has since been completed. Site preparation work and other procedural formalities for setting up centres at the remaining 457 block headquarters of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim has commenced.

(b) Computer facilities will become available at these blocks through programmes hosted by National Informatics Centre in consultation with the State Governments. The functioning of these centres will be arranged through skilled manpower who will provide necessary technical assistance to the users. Programmes for sustenance are to be devised only after due consideration of the utilisation of the facilities provided at centres.

(c) Other initiatives for comprehensive computerisation in these States include the following:

(i) Augmentation of facilities and capacity building of the State Administrative Training Institutes/Staff Training Colleges and State Government Secretariats.

(ii) Commissioning of STPI at Guwahati.

(iii) Development of a portable remote sensing device based on active echo sounding by optical means (LIDAR).

(iv) Setting up of 13 resource centres for Indian language technology solutions covering all constitutional languages.

(v) Four centres set up by C-DAC for PACE programme in the States of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

(vi) Support to 26 institutions by DOEACC Society for imparting education and training in computers.

(vii) Augmentation of Electro-medical Equipment Maintenance (EMM) Centre at Guwahati.   .

(viii) Technical assistance for promoting Braille literacy in Indian languages at Jorhat Blind School, Jorhat, Assam.

(ix) Employment Generation Training Schemes through institutions supported by the Ministry.

(x) Installation of Braille transcription system at selected blind schools in Assam, Sikkim and Mizoram.

(xi) Initiatives for promotion of local industries, and for promotion of cultural heritages.

(xii) Digitisation of land records in Assam.

(xiii) Preparation of maps of Sikkim through GIS.

(xiv) Providing connectivity to Research and Educational Institutions through ERNET Society.

Promotion of IT Software

1298. SHRI. H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangalore is a Must See City for China's IT Sector;